# ecylogo-horiz-color.pngMeeting Minutes

**Resource Damage Assessment Committee (RDA)
Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, May 14, 2025
**Microsoft Teams and Ecology HQ Room R0A-36**

Call to Order: 9:01 AM

Introduction and Agenda Review

## Attendees

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Entity | Representative |
| RDA Committee, ChairWashington State Department of Ecology | Geoff Baran |
| RDA Committee, ChairWashington State Department of Ecology | Josh Weide |
| RDA CommitteeWashington State Department of Fish and Wildlife | Steve Bell |
| RDA CommitteeWashington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation | Rob Whitlam |
| RDA CommitteeWashington State Department of Natural Resources | Shayne Cothern |
| RDA CommitteeWashington State Parks | Matt Niles |
| RDA CommitteeWashington State Department of Health | Merita Trohimovich |
| Triangle Recycling, LLC | Robert Peterkin |
| Washington State Attorney General’s Office | Julian Beattie |
| Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation | Jessica Stone |
| Washington State Department of Ecology | Patrick Lewis |
| Washington State Department of Ecology | Tami Neilson |
| Washington State Department of Ecology | Rob Walls |

## Minutes

### New Business

#### Preassessment Screenings

##### ERTS #735578 Triangle Recycling Gear Oil Spill to Hylebos Waterway

* Incident Summary:

On December 9, 2024, Ecology received a report from Radius Recycling in Tacoma of an unknown volume of oil spilled to the Upper Turning Basin of the Hylebos Waterway from a cargo barge owned by Samson Tug and Barge. Radius Recycling was removing scrap metal from Triangle Recycling, LLC from the barge when a large gear box with a 100-gallon capacity of gear oil was discovered to have leaked to the deck of the barge. The release had then dripped down the side of the barge into the water. Radius Recycling surrounded the barge with containment boom and contracted Republic Services for cleanup, who applied sorbents to the deck of the barge and in the water lining the inside of the containment boom. Republic Services also attempted to use a skimmer to collect product in the water, but was largely unsuccessful. An estimated 15 gallons of oil were collected by sorbents both in the water and on the deck. In addition to the leaking gear box, another gear box was found containing gear oil which was supposed to be removed by Triangle Recycling prior to loading onto the barge. Triangle Recycling did not have any documentation for oil that would have been in either of the gear boxes. Radius Recycling reported that 15 gallons of gear oil were recovered from the leaking gear box and 85 gallons from the second. Based on the oil recovery, Ecology estimates that 85-100 gallons of gear oil were spilled.

*R. Peterkin:* The second gear box was removed correctly with no oil spilled. 85 gallons were removed from this gear box that has a capacity for 100 gallons. These gear boxes are not typically filled to capacity. The other gear box Radius had knocked over on its side which caused the spill. Around 30 gallons were removed from this box, not 15 gallons. There was likely more than 15 gallons of product recovered from the deck of the barge by the absorbents.

*G.* *Baran*: We work regularly with Republic Services and will be able to get in contact with them to determine exactly what was recovered.

* Preassessment Screening:
	+ Are the damages quantifiable at a reasonable cost? 6 no.
	+ Is restoration or enhancement technically feasible? 6 no.
	+ Compensation schedule authorized to calculate damages.

##### ERTS #726841 Tug El Capitan Sinking and Spill to West Sound Marina

* Incident Summary:

On November 18, 2023, West Sound Marina personnel reported the sinking of the 81-foot former US Army tugboat El Capitan at the West Sound Marina on Orcas Island. The vessel's fuel tank had been previously emptied, but up to 600 gallons of lubricating oil were reportedly on board. The Islands' Oil Spill Association (IOSA) responded and surrounded the vessel with containment boom and continued to monitor and maintain sorbent materials along with the marina. After sheen was observed on November 26, 2023, the US Coast Guard contracted Global Diving and Salvage (GDS) to assess the vessel, but GDS did not find any specific points of leakage. In addition, GDS was unable to remove any of the oil while the vessel was on the bottom of the marina, allowing small quantities of oil to be released, as evidenced by contaminated sorbents within the containment boom. Based on the sheen size and characteristics observed on 11 non-consecutive days while the vessel was sunk, Ecology estimates that a total of 50 gallons of oil spilled, including a 42-gallon spill when the vessel sank in November. In April 2024, the USCG and WDNR determined that the vessel needed to be removed from the state aquatic lands, which were being leased by the marina. WDNR worked with West Sound Marina to dispose of the El Capitan under the Voluntary Turn-In Program. The marina's insurer contracted with GDS to remove the vessel on June 19, 2024, via crane barge. The vessel was then taken by barge to Stabbert Marine in Anacortes, where WDNR paid GDS for vessel deconstruction and disposal.

*J. Weide:* Rob Walls, once the vessel was removed from the water, was there any oil left on board?

*R. Walls*: Once the vessel was removed, there was no further oil that could be removed.

* Preassessment Screening:
	+ Are the damages quantifiable at a reasonable cost? 6 no.
	+ Is restoration or enhancement technically feasible? 6 no.
	+ Compensation schedule authorized to calculate damages.

##### ERTS ##733984 F/V Pacific Bay Diesel Spill to Willapa Bay

* Incident Summary:

On September 25, 2024, Ecology received a report from U.S. Coast Guard of a grounded vessel in Willapa Bay. The F/V Pacific Bay was returning from the Pacific Ocean to refuel when it started to take on water. After the crew was unsuccessful with pumping the vessel out, they ran it aground on a sandbar in the bay. USCG Search and Rescue extricated the crew and placed a tracking device on the vessel. No spill was observed at the time of the rescue. The following day, it was evident that the vessel had started breaking apart as pieces of it were washing ashore on Shoalwater Bay Tribal land, State Parks property, and the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge. The main wreckage of the vessel was also located by USCG helicopter on a sand bar at low tide on the 26th. The captain of the Pacific Bay reported that the vessel contained approximately 30 gallons of diesel when the vessel became grounded. All 30 gallons are assumed to have been released to the bay, although no sheen nor oiled shorelines were observed. USCG issued the vessel owner a written order to clean debris from shorelines surrounding Willapa Bay. The owner worked with the Shoalwater Bay Tribe to continue conducting beach surveys into the middle of October until no further debris was found.

* Preassessment Screening:
	+ Are the damages quantifiable at a reasonable cost? 6 no.
	+ Is restoration or enhancement technically feasible? 6 no.
	+ Compensation schedule authorized to calculate damages.

### Other Business

#### Approval of Minutes

* Motion to approve meeting minutes for the April 9, 2025, RDA Committee Motion passed at 9:39 AM.

#### Open Case Updates

* ERTS #727283 Olympic Pipeline Gasoline Spill – Skagit County, December 10, 2023
	+ A meeting with the trustees will be scheduled soon.
* ERTS #738773: F/V *Captain Raleigh* Capsize and Diesel Spill to Grays Harbor

This is a recent vessel incident at the Grays Harbor Bar crossing. Considering the volume of fuel on the vessel, a worst-case scenario of environmental impacts appears to have been avoided. Responders are working on a salvage plan, but rough conditions at the Grays Harbor have made assessment of the vessel difficult. There have not been any reported wildlife or shoreline impacts.

### Announcements

* Don Noviello, WDFW committee member, is retiring in June. Congratulations!
* Applications for the Spills Coastal Protection Grant will be evaluated soon.
	+ Ecology received 11 applications which are being reviewed for eligibility.
	+ We anticipate awarding the grants in August.
* Next meeting: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 9:00 am via **Microsoft Teams** and in person at Ecology HQ, **Room R0A-36**.

Adjournment: 9:44 AM